

Guthrie Theater as Artistic Director as well and his lifetime of commitment to the arts.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR AND SUSSEX COUNTY FARM AND HORSE SHOW

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in the recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the New Jersey State Fair and Sussex County Farm & Horse Show. Drawing in roughly under a quarter million attendees annually in recent years, this event reflects upon a rich heritage and culture of which we should all be very proud.

From what began over 75 years ago as a small town horse and farm show, the fair has blossomed into the famous state event we appreciate and enjoy today across the entire Tri-State area. Since 1999, the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show has been incorporated into the New Jersey State Fair, and it remains an integral piece of its history.

Since their inclusion into the New Jersey State Fair, these Fairgrounds have provided a welcome home for a wide variety of events as well as a place for learning and tourism. This year's fair will extend over a period of 10 days and include a multitude of enjoyable attractions, expositions, and performances, including a carnival, circus, and even a demolition derby. Aside from these attractions, the fair serves as a promotion for the importance of local agriculture and showcases some of the beauty that characterizes the Garden State. In an effort to do this, a vegetable show, the Flower & Garden Expo, and livestock shows have all been included in the fair's itinerary. Always looking to provide an opportunity for local vendors, the fair will also allocate showcases for the best produce and livestock from our local farmers. Learning and culture will also be major aspects of the event, and attractions such as an Art expo, talent completion, and a robotics display shall offer attendees an exciting and informative perspective on some of the best New Jersey has to offer.

Held annually in Augusta, New Jersey, the New Jersey State Fair has grown to include a permanent complex of 15 buildings stretching over an impressive 165 acres. The fair's popularity has increased steadily since its inception and this is a testament to its continued success. It will have been 75 years since the local Sussex horse and farm shows merged to form the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show in an effort to increase public appreciation for agriculture in New Jersey. Since then, the once tiny event has surpassed all expectations; becoming the premier agricultural fair in the Garden State. Today, we honor that achievement and all the experiences yet to be had today and in years to come.

I commend the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show Association for their continued commitment to providing such a rich educational and enjoyable experience for the people of New Jersey and the wider Tri-State area. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the New

Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary.

HONORING CADET COL GREGORY WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Cadet COL Gregory Wilson, a senior at Murrah High School, is the Jackson Public Schools JROTC Cadet of the Year for 2015.

While maintaining a 3.8 grade point average, Cadet Wilson has held several key leadership positions in the Battalion throughout his high school tenure. Cadet Wilson is a proud member of the National Honor Society and National Junior Classical League. He recently attended the American Legion Boys State where he was elected state treasurer.

Cadet Wilson has also been actively involved in a variety of community service projects including Stewpot Summer Enrichment and Stop Hunger Now. Currently, he serves as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the "Mustang" Battalion. Cadet Wilson has been accepted to several colleges including the prestigious University of Mississippi Honors College. After graduating from Murrah with honors, Cadet Wilson will attend the University of Mississippi. He plans to attend medical school at an Army residency program. His vision is to become a pathologist for the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet COL Gregory Wilson.

IN SUPPORT OF "LGBT PRIDE MONTH AND HOUSTON PRIDE WEEK"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBT Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 17 years since the cruel murder of Matthew Shepherd, a college student from Laramie, Wyoming.

As a country, America has made and continues to make great progress in the area of social equality, as evidenced most dramatically by the seismic shift in public support for marriage equality over the past decade.

Today, supporters of marriage equality dramatically outnumber opponents by 61%–35%; a near total reversal from 2004, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58–39 percent.

Our country made progress in bringing our LGBT brothers and sisters, mother and fathers out of the shadows with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support.

Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better.

In April 2015, President Obama issued a landmark Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against LGBT persons in the workplace.

This civil rights victory ensures the tax dollars used to pay government contractors support contractors that are committed to equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of sexual orientation.

This legislation marks a major shift from a time when the U.S. Civil Service Commission prohibited the hiring of LGBT persons to a time when the Secretary of Defense has selected an openly gay man as his chief of staff.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 46th anniversary of the LGBT Civil Rights Movement, where activists such as Frank Kameny led the struggle for the voices of the LGBT community to be heard.

Frank Kameny's courageous demonstrations inspired others to resist mistreatment and we witnessed in 1969 what happens when a community says enough is enough.

Our country has made progress since the Stonewall uprising of 1969, and with the support of equal rights for all communities by leaders such as President Barack Obama, more and more voices are being heard.

Mr. Speaker, although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law, it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week later this month, from June 21–28, 2015.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBT community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent.

The Houston LGBT community is culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 36 years, since 1979, and promotes the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBT community.

The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly recognized and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Texas natives such as Sheryl Swoopes, a 3-time WNBA Most Valuable Player and champion for the Houston Comets, Houston Mayor Annise Parker.

These leaders have set an example of what can happen when we lift the limits of inequality and support our fellow Americans in their pursuits of their inalienable rights.

Other members of the LGBT community whose contributions have enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Mandy Carter, 2008 national co-chair of Obama Pride